



## Icebreaker

Are you more of a “control freak” or a “free spirit”?

## Study

Read Galatians 5:17 in a number of different translations. What do you think of the different ways that verse is rendered? What is it saying to you?

Read Romans 6:16-18. This is another passage where Paul teaches that humans are never truly free. What do you think of that? Do humans have “free will”?

How do you feel about the idea that you might not be in charge of your life?

Read Romans 7:14-25. Feel free to use different translations. Because this is a difficult passage to understand at times, different translations can be quite different from each other. What do you think of the differences?

One thing is very clear in the passage regardless of translation differences. Paul is claiming that sin is somehow in him and affecting what he does. The metaphor we are using is that sin has “hacked” us and taken charge of us. What do you think of Paul's struggle? How can a guy so strong in faith have such a struggle?

Read Romans 8:1-17. In this passage, Paul begins to explain the solution to the problem of chapter 7, and there are three key parts to the solution:

- By his death and resurrection, Jesus can take sin from us and place his righteousness in us. (We receive it through faith and baptism. See Chapter 6.)
- Once we are cleansed of sin, the Spirit of God can take up residence inside us, putting to death our “flesh” and enlivening our spirit.
- With the Spirit in us, we can choose to give him control of our minds and also our behaviors.

Are these three things true of you? In what ways are you living them out?

On Sunday, we ended with this thought: “I’m not in charge, but I can choose who is.” What does that mean to you? Is that encouraging or challenging?



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